Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

MEMORANDUM

TO: TMC and TAMWG

FROM: Mike Dixon, Acting Executive Director
Trinity River Restoration Program

SUBJECT: Director's Report

DATE: December 5, 2016

Major TRRP activities between September 27 and December 5, 2016 focused on program efforts to further permitting actions, propose changes to winter base flow, fill vacancies, and prepare a FY18 work plan. Details on some of these activities follow.

Organizational Updates

Executive Director: Interviews for the ED vacancy were held in October. Caryn Huntt DeCarlo was selected. Having served for months as acting ED, she is well known to this program. She will be reporting aboard formally on 08 JAN 2017. Caryn is currently managing a $525 million restoration Program in the Truckee River, Walker River, and Summit Lake Basins in CA and NV. She has been working with river restoration projects for 13 years. Projects she manages include river channel rehabilitation projects, water rights acquisitions for instream and terminal lake fisheries, land acquisitions for tribal reservations, river flow, water storage, and water allocation management, fisheries and watershed conservation research, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and tribal fish hatchery facility upgrades. Caryn coordinates the Program work with Native American Tribes, federal, state, and local agencies, universities, and national/local non-profits.

Caryn has also worked as a Natural Resource Specialist for Reclamation and the Forest Service leading interdisciplinary teams in resource planning and NEPA for forest, wilderness, grazing, and recreation management, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, and other federal land activities. Caryn has served on Regional and Washington DC details as spotted owl coordinator and in legislative affairs. In 2016 she served as Acting Executive Director of TRRP for 4.5 months.

Caryn has a M.S. and B.S in Natural Resource Management from the University of Nevada, Reno. She is honored to be part of the Trinity River Restoration Program working with the TRRP staff, Partners, and stakeholders to restore and maintain the Trinity River anadromous fishery resources.

Compliance

- FEMA compliance: New Trinity River Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) became effective on 20 July 2016. These new maps were based on new hydrology and terrain models that the TRRP was instrumental in providing. DWR conducted HEC-RAS modeling to estimate flood hazard zones (1% and 0.2% recurrence zones) along the river. The new FIRMs map defines the floodway and FEMA guidelines require that a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) application be submitted for any construction that proposes changes in the base flood elevation (100 year flood zone) of > 0.0 feet.

  Applications for a CLOMR are generally done with "FINAL" designs (not prior to NEPA) and require approximately 6 months to receive the final CLOMR letter. FEMA assisted the TRRP with our process at Bucktail and we are looking at options to streamline wherever possible. A Sheridan-Deep Gulch application will be submitted to FEMA prior to the holiday. Blair Greimann, Reclamation's PE to certify TRRP projects for the FEMA process, will be working with DWR staff (Julia Delphi and Todd Hillaire), Trinity County (Leslie Hubbard), and TRRP partners in this FEMA effort. In addition, LOMRs are required for LJC, UDC, Limekiln Gulch, and Bucktail.
    - Bucktail CLOMR/LOMR: The final CLOMR for Bucktail was in received from FEMA on 17 SEP 2016. Following completion of surveys and receipt of as-built drawings, modeling will be repeated to confirm flood elevations calculated from the design topography. Once this is done, Trinity County will apply for the LOMR, likely next spring.
- Deep Gulch and Sheridan Design/NEPA/CEQA: 90% design drawings have been completed for the combined Deep Gulch/Sheridan project. These will be the basis for a CLOMR application in December, with the expectation of a CLOMR being received within 6 months of the complete application (June 2017).TRRP partners are working with FEMA to facilitate the process. Chapters 1 and 2 of the EA were reviewed by the BLM in October; the remainder of the admin draft is expected this month. Admin DRAFT review by TRRP partners will take place during December and January. We anticipate releasing a draft for public comment in February.
- Dutch Creek Design/NEPA/CEQA: Flood modeling by DWR identified FEMA compliance concerns (increases in 100 year flood elevations in proximity to right-bank structures) related to the proposed left-bank side channel and spoiling at the lower Dutch Creek site. A design team meeting was held on that topic on 19 OCT and further discussion was had at their 30 NOV-01 DEC meeting. The Design Team determined that, given the need to change Lower Dutch Creek designs, that entire Dutch Creek site should be considered as substantial habitat gains are probable there and access might be limited by construction of the Lower Dutch Creek Project. Further decisions regarding individual design features need to be made, but at this stage the intent is to conduct NEPA on a full Dutch Creek design under USFS, BLM, and private management.
- Winter Base Flow Variability NEPA: Following Flow WG discussion of alternative winter hydrographs leading up to and at the last TMC meeting, TRRP staff and BOR consulted with the DOI Office of the Solicitor, who counseled that we would be well served to develop an EA to analyze potential impacts of changes to the hydrograph during that period. An ad hoc team of program staff and partners is working to develop a focused EA. An admin draft will likely be available for comment in spring of 2017, with a decision regarding WY18 winter base flow variability to follow.
- Programmatic NMFS BA: An Admin Draft BA to analyze the effects of updated TRRP activities (channel rehabilitation, sediment management, and watershed restoration activities) on SONCC coho salmon and essential fish habitat has been reviewed by BLM, USFS, and NMFS staff. TRRP activities are likely to

Publications and Reports:

- Stream Salmonid Simulator (SSS) Workshop Presentations. October 2016
- Borok, S. 2016. Annual report, Trinity River basin salmon and steelhead monitoring project: 2015 angler creel surveys in the lower Klamath River. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation agreement R13AC20027. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding, California.
- Bradley, D. N. 2016. Trinity River 40 Mile Hydraulic Model: Development and Analysis. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), Technical Service Center report no SRH-2016-27. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, Colorado.
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department and McBain Associates. 2016. Water year 2015 Trinity River Restoration Program riparian monitoring report. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department, Hoopa, California.
- Kier, M. C. and J. Hileman. 2016. Annual report, Trinity River basin salmon and steelhead monitoring project: chinook and coho salmon and fall-run steelhead run-size estimates using mark-recapture methods, 2016-16 season. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation agreement R13AC20027. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Redding, California.
- McBain Associates. 2015. Trinity River active bar mapping, Lewiston Dam to the North Fork Trinity River confluence, summer 2014. Prepared for the Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries. McBain Associates, Arcata, California.
- Stephens, J. L., S. M. Rockwell, and E. E. Armstrong. 2016. Trinity River bird and vegetation monitoring: 2015 report card, version 1.0. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). KBO-2016-0014, Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, Oregon.
- Stephens, J. L., S. M. Rockwell, and E. E. Armstrong. 2016. Trinity River bird and vegetation monitoring: report card methods. Report to the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, Oregon.
- TRRP. 2016. Restoration Flow Releases on the Trinity River – Water Year 2015. Workgroup Report WR-TRRP-2016-1. Trinity River Restoration Program, Weaverville, California.
- TRRP. 2016. Trinity River Restoration Program 2015 Annual Report. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

Data Packages:

- GMA Hydrology. 2016. Color aerial orthophotography collected August 3, 2016, for the Trinity River, North Fork to Lewiston Dam. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under US Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Inc. Arcata, California.
- GMA Hydrology. 2016. Terrain Surface Data Package [As-Built for Upper Douglas City]. Data Package for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) under US Bureau of Reclamation contract R14PC00122. GMA Hydrology, Inc. Arcata, California.
- GMA Hydrology and TRRP (Trinity River Restoration Program). 2016. Lower Trinity River 2014 Terrain. Data Package from GMA Hydrology with minor additions from TRRP. TRRP, Weaverville, California.

Technical Workgroup Summary

December 2016

Updates have been prepared by the Trinity River Restoration Program technical workgroup coordinators for the Trinity Management Council and the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group.

Workgroup: Flow **Coordinator:** Andreas Krause

- Variable winter flow proposal: Reclamation indicated an Environmental Assessment will be required. This requirement means variable winter flows will not be possible in WY17. The flow workgroup will continue developing the variable winter flow proposal for implementation in WY18 and work with Reclamation to provide the information needed to develop the Environmental Assessment.
- WY17 flow scheduling: Starting in January, the flow workgroup will be developing flow release recommendations for WY17 (spring and summer time period). Workgroup recommendations for WY17 flow releases will be presented to the TAMWG and TMC at their March meetings.
- FY18 workplan development: the Flow Workgroup has not previously participated in the TRRP work plan development process but will start doing so this year. Broad scale priorities include 1) development of synthesis reports evaluating the effects of past flow releases; and 2) monitoring and assessment plans associated with winter variable flow proposals.

Workgroup: Physical **Coordinator:** Wes Smith

- The physical workgroup met for the first time since spring to discuss the FY18 science workplan and other topics on 05-06 DEC. Updates had not been received at the time of this report.

Workgroup: Wildlife/Riparian **Coordinator:** James Lee

- The wildlife/riparian workgroup met twice during this quarter to discuss proposals and rankings for the FY18 science work plan.

Workgroup: IDT **Coordinator:** Mike Dixon/Jennifer Norris

- IDT met on 29 November. We received updates from the workgroup coordinators, which included discussion on winter base flow variability. There was then a presentation and discussion of the FY18 science work plan process, which is intended to capture all monitoring and research efforts throughout the program, including implementation. The meeting concluded with tasking for IDT members to review the 2014 work group manual in order to make recommendations on clarifications and updates during the January meeting.

Workgroup: Design **Coordinator:** Mike Dixon

- The design team held a short meeting on 19 OCT to discuss design issues related to FEMA compliance at the lower Dutch Creek channel rehab site. After lengthy discussion about a number of expensive alternatives (extensive channel widening, raising homes) to facilitate the side channel construction, conversation shifted to other aspects of the original "upper" Dutch Creek project area. The group

- The FWG considered implementation of video technology to make annual census counts of Fall Chinook at the Willow Creek weir (WCW), and the group agreed this change to operations at WCW should be prioritized for FY18 in its November 30th meeting.